

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Northern Region



AUGUST 1987

FOREST PLAN

Idaho Panhandle
National Forests

FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER
PO BOX 9241
MOSCOW, ID 83843



10. Old-Growth Habitat Management

- a. A definition for old growth is being developed by a Regional Task Force and will be used by the Forest when completed. As an interim guideline, stands classified as old growth should meet the definition given by Thomas (1979).
- b. Maintain at least 10 percent of the forested portion of the IPNF as old growth.
- c. Select and maintain at least five percent of the forested portion of those old-growth units that have five percent or more existing old growth. Areas will be selected as old-growth management stands based on a combination of wildlife, cost efficiency, and other resource values (interdisciplinary process). Existing old growth classified as unsuitable for timber management will be given priority for selection.
- d. Existing old-growth stands may be harvested when there is more than 5 percent in an old-growth unit, and the Forest total is more than 10 percent.
- e. Old-growth stands should reflect approximately the same habitat type series distribution as found on the IPNF.
- f. One or more old-growth stands per old-growth unit should be 300 acres or larger. Preference should be given to a contiguous stand; however, the stand may be subdivided into stands of 100 acres or larger if the stands are within one mile. The remaining old-growth management stands should be at least 25 acres in size. Preferred size is 80 plus acres.
- g. Roads should be planned to avoid old-growth management stands to maintain unit size criteria.
- h. Existing grazing allotments will be honored; however, a long-term objective should be to minimize or exclude domestic grazing within old-growth stands. New allotments in old-growth stands will not be issued.
- i. Goals for lands to be managed as old-growth within those lands suitable for timber production are identified in the management area prescriptions.

Fish

1. Activities on National Forest lands will be planned and executed to maintain existing water uses. Maintain is defined as "limiting effects from National Forest activities to maintain at least 80 percent of fry emergence success in identified fishery streams." The percent is measured from pristine conditions. Current methodology will not detect an impact of less than 20 percent. During the life of the plan, new technologies may permit more precise assessments; however, the goal of this standard will remain as "to maintain 80 percent of fry emergence success."